

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192021

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BL

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COOPERATION INITIATIVE: COCAINE
CONSPIRACY CASE

1. AMBASSADOR CRESPO WAS INVITED TO DEPT AT 11 A.M. FOR BRIEFING ON COCAINE CONSPIRACY CASE BY ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY MCDERMOTT AND ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISER LOUIS G. FIELDS, JR. COPY OF INDICTMENT WAS GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR CRESPO AND HE WAS INFORMED EMBASSY WOULD BE KEPT ADVISED FULLY ON DEVELOPMENTS OF CASE. MOREOVER, ATTENTION WAS CALLED TO FACT THAT ONE OF NAMED DEFENDANTS, JAIME OBLITAS PAZ HAD DERIVATIVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY (G-2 VISA) BY VIRTUE OF HIS BEING A DEPENDENT OF A DIPLOMATIC MEMBER OF BOLIVIAN OAS MISSION. AMBASSADOR WAS ADVISED OBLITAS PRESENTLY NOT BELIEVED TO BE IN UNITED STATES BUT IS BEING SOUGHT. SHOULD OBLITAS COME INTO U.S. JURISDICTION HE WOULD BE ARRESTED AND AT THAT POINT EMBASSY WOULD BE FORMALLY REQUESTED TO WAIVE IMMUNITY.

2. PRESENTLY IN CUSTODY IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA IS CO-
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DEFENDANT FEDERICO ALMAREZ-VIZE (BORN LA PAZ ON 8/28/51)

WHO WAS BROUGHT FROM PANAMA BY DEA AGENTS MILANO AND SALVATORE. ALMAREZ IS BELIEVED TO BE WILLING TO COOPERATE;

HOWEVER, THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY HIS WILLINGNESS MAY CHANGE. ALMAREZ ALLEGES HE IS COUSIN OF GENERAL ALBERTO GUZMAN SORIANO AND NEPHEW OF LUCIO VEGA OF COMIBOL. ALMAREZ' FAMILY RESIDES IN LIMA, PERU WHERE FATHER OPERATES LARGE CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS. ALMAREZ SUGGESTED THAT HIS FATHER HAS HIGHLY PLACED FRIENDS INCLUDING AMBASSADOR CRESPO. AMBASSADOR CRESPO STATED FIRMLY THAT "CONNECTIONS" SHOULD NOT BE A MITIGATING CONSIDERATION. EMBASSY WILL BE KEPT FULLY ADVISED OF STATUS OF ALMAREZ IN THIS CASE AND DEPT WILL APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE ON ALMAREZ.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE THE GOB WITH A COPY OF THE INDICTMENT AND TO BRIEF APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS ON THE NATURE OF THE CASE, THE DEFENDANTS AND THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM. YOU MAY DRAW UPON THE BRIEFING GIVEN THE AMBASSADOR LAST WEEK BY THE TEAM HEADED BY LOUIS FIELDS. THE PURPOSE IS TO SEEK GOB COOPERATION IN PROCEEDING AGAINST THE BOLIVIAN DEFENDANTS IN BOLIVIA EITHER BY EXTRADITING THEM TO THE U.S. OR PROSECUTING THEM LOCALLY UNDER BOLIVIAN LAW. THE LATTER WOULD BE PREFERABLE. WE EXPECT TO SEND A TEAM TO LA PAZ WITHIN TWO TO THREE WEEKS TO DISCUSS SPECIFICALLY THE EVIDENCE WE HAVE THAT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GOB IN PROCEEDING AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS IN BOLIVIA. IN THE MEANTIME, WE HOPE THE GOB WILL BE GIVING ACTIVE CONSIDERATION TO MEASURES THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN UNDER BOLIVIAN LAW.

4. THE INDICTMENT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC THIS AFTERNOON AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT IT MAY RECEIVE SOME PRESS COVERAGE HERE. KISSINGER

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